

POL

The wisdom of this world is sometimes taken in scripture for policy, and consists in a certain dexterity of managing business for a man's secular advantage.

3. [Polisa, Spanish.] A warrant for money in the public funds.

To POLISH. *v. a.* [polir, Lat. *polir*, Fr.]

1. To smooth; to brighten by attrition; to gloss.

He setteth to finish his work, and *polisheth* it perfectly. *Ecc.*

Pegmalion, with fatal art,

Polish'd the form that flung his heart: *Gravill.*

2. To make elegant of manners.

Studious they appear

Of arts that *polish* life, inventors rare. *Milton.*

Bid soft science *polish* Britain's heroes. *Irene.*

To POLISH. *v. n.* To answer to the act of polishing; to receive a gloss.

It is reported by the ancients, that there was a kind of steel, which would *polish* almost as white and bright as silver. *Bacon.*

POLISH. *n. f.* [poli, *polishure*, Fr. from the verb.]

1. Artificial gloss; brightness given by attrition.

Not to mention what a huge column of granite cost in the quarry, only consider the great difficulty of heaving it into any form, and of giving it the due turn, proportion and *polish*.

Another prism of clearer glass and better *polish* seemed free from veins. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*

2. Elegance of manners.

What are these wondrous civilizing arts,

This Roman *polish*, and this smooth behaviour,

That render man thus tractable and tame? *Addison's Cato.*

POLISHABLE. *adj.* [from *polish*.] Capable of being polished.

POLISHER. *n. f.* [from *polish*.] The person or instrument that gives a gloss.

I consider an human soul without education, like marble in the quarry, which shews none of its inherent beauties, till the skill of the *polisher* fetches out the colours. *Addison.*

POLITE. *adj.* [politus, Latin.]

1. Glossy; smooth.

Some of them are diaphanous, shining and *polite*; others not *polite*, but as if powder'd over with fine iron dust. *Woodw.*

If any sort of rays, falling on the *polite* surface of any pellucid medium, be reflected back, the fits of easy reflexion, which they have at the point of reflexion, shall still continue to return. *Newton's Opticks.*

The edges of the sand holes, being worn away, there are left all over the glass a numberless company of very little convex *polite* rifings like waves. *Newton's Opticks.*

2. Elegant of manners.

A nymph of quality admires our knight,

He marries, bows at court, and grows *polite*. *Pope.*

POLITELY. *adv.* [from *polite*.] With elegance of manners; genteely.

POLITENESS. *n. f.* [politesse, Fr. from *polite*.] Elegance of manners; gentility; good breeding.

I have seen the dullest men aiming at wit, and others, with as little pretensions, affecting *politeness* in manners and discourse. *Swift.*

POLITICAL. *adj.* [πολιτικός.]

1. Relating to politics; relating to the administration of public affairs.

More true *political* wisdom may be learned from this single book of proverbs, than from a thousand Machiavel. *Rogers.*

2. Cunning; skilful.

POLITICALLY. *adv.* [from *political*.]

1. With relation to public administration.

The Turks *politically* mingled certain Janizaries, harque-busiers with their horsemen. *Knolles's History of the Turks.*

POLITICASTER. *n. f.* A petty ignorant pretender to politics.

There are quacks of all sorts; as bullies, pedants, hypocrites, empiricks, law-jobbers and *politicasters*. *L'Estrange.*

POLITICIAN. *n. f.* [politicien, Fr.]

1. One versed in the arts of government; one skilled in politics.

Get thee glass eyes,

And, like a scurvy politician, seem

To see things thou dost not. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*

And 't be any way, it must be with valour; for policy I hate: I had as lief be a Brownist as a politician. *Shakespeare.*

Although I may seem less a politician to men, yet I need no secret distinctions nor evasions before God. *King Charles.*

While empirick politicians use deceit,

Hide what they give, and cure but by a cheat,

You boldly show that skill, which they pretend,

And work by means as noble as your end. *Dryden.*

Coffee, which makes the politician wife,

And see through all things with his half-shut eyes,

Sent up in vapours to the baron's brain

New stratagems, the radiant lock to gain. *Pope.*

2. A man of artifice; one of deep contrivance.

Your ill-meaning politician lords,

Under pretence of bridal friends and guests,

Appointed to await me thirty fates. *Milton.*

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If a man succeeds in any attempt, though undertook with never so much rashness, his success shall vouch him a politician, and good luck shall pass for deep contrivance; for give any one fortune, and he shall be thought a wife man. *South.*

POLITICK. *adj.* [πολιτικός.]

1. Political; civil. In this sense *political* is almost always used, except in the phrase *body politick*.

Virtuously and wisely acknowledging, that he with his people made all but one *politick* body, whereof himself was the head; even so cared for them as he would for his own limbs.

No civil or *politick* constitutions have been more celebrated than his by the best authors. *Sidney, l. ii.*

2. Prudent; versed in affairs. *Templ.*

This land was famously enrich'd

With *politick* grave counsel; then the king

Had virtuous uncles. *Shakespeare. Richard III.*

3. Artful; cunning. In this sense *political* is not used.

I have trod a measure; I have flatter'd a lady; I have been

politick with my friend, smooth with mine enemy. *Shakespeare.*

Authority followeth old men, and favour youth; but for the moral part, perhaps youth will have the preeminence, as age hath for the *politick*. *Bacon.*

No less alike the *politick* and wife,

All fly slow things, with circumspect eyes;

Men in their loose unguarded hours they take. *Pope.*

POLITICKLY. *adv.* [from *politick*.] Artfully; cunningly.

Thus have I *politickly* begun my reign,

And 'tis my hope to end successfully. *Shakespeare.*

'Tis *politickly* done,

To send me packing with an host of men. *Shakespeare.*

The dutchess hath been most *politickly* employed in sharpening those arms with which the subdued you.

POLITICKS. *n. f.* [politiques, Fr. *politique*.] The science of government; the art or practice of administering public affairs.

Be pleas'd your *politicks* to spare,

I'm old enough, and can myself take care. *Dryden.*

It would be an everlasting reproach to *politicks*, should such men overturn an establishment formed by the wisest laws, and supported by the ablest heads.

Of crooked counsels and dark *politicks*. *Pope.*

POLITURE. *n. f.* [politura, Fr.] The gloss given by the act of polishing.

POLITY. *n. f.* [πολιτεία.] A form of government; civil constitution.

Because the subject, which this position concerneth, is a form of church government or church *polity*, it behoveth us to consider the nature of the church, as is requisite for men's more clear and plain understanding, in what respect laws of *polity* or government are necessary thereunto. *Hooker.*

The *polity* of some of our neighbours hath not thought it beneath the public care, to promote and reward the improvement of their own language. *Locke on Education.*

POLL. *n. f.* [pelle, *pol*, Dutch, the top.]

1. The head.

Look if the withered elder hath not his *poll* claw'd like a parrot. *Shakespeare. Henry IV. p. ii.*

2. A catalogue or list of persons; a register of heads.

Have you a catalogue

Of all the voices that we have procur'd,

Set down by th' *poll*. *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*

The muster file, rotten and sound, amounts not to fifteen thousand *poll*. *Shakespeare.*

3. A fish called generally a chub. A chevin.

To POLL. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To lop the top of trees.

The oft cutting and *polling* of hedges conduces much to their lasting. *Bacon's Natural History.*

May thy woods oft *poll'd* yet ever wear

A green, and, when the list, a golden hair. *Dana.*

2. In this sense is used *poll'd* sheep.

Poll'd sheep, that is sheep without horns, are reckoned the best breeders, because the ewes year the *poll'd* lamb with the least danger. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

3. To pull off hair from the head; to clip short; to shear.

Neither shall they have, only *poll* their heads. *Exekiel.*

4. To mow; to crop.

He'll go and fowle the porter of Rome gates by th' ears: he will mow down all before him, and leave his passage *poll'd*. *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*

5. To plunder; to strip; to pill.

They will *poll* and spoil so outrageously, as the very enemy cannot do much worse. *Spenser on Ireland.*

Take and exact upon them the wild exactions, coignies, livery and forehon, by which they *poll* and utterly undo the poor tenants. *Spenser on Ireland.*

He told the people, that subsidies were not to be granted nor levied for wars in Scotland; for that the law had provided another course by service of escuage, much less when war was made but a pretence to *poll* and pill the people. *Bacon.*

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Neither can justice yield her fruit with sweetness, amongst the briars and brambles of catching and *polling* clerks and ministers. *Bacon.*

4. To take a list or register of persons.

5. To enter one's name in a list or register.

Who ever brought to his rich daughter's bed,

The man that *poll'd* but twelve pence for his head? *Dryden.*

6. To insert into a number as a voter.

In solemn conclave sit, devoid of thought,

And *poll* for points of faith his trusty vote. *Tickell.*

POLLARD. *n. f.* [from *poll*.]

1. A tree lopped.

Nothing procureth the lasting of trees so much as often cutting; and we see all overgrown trees are *pollards* or dotards, and not trees at their full height. *Bacon.*

2. A clipped coin.

The same king called in certain counterfeit pieces coined by the French, called *pollards*, crocans and rosaries. *Camden.*

3. The chub fish.

POLLER. *n. f.* A fine powder, commonly understood by the word farina; as also a sort of fine bran. *Ansforth.*

POLLINGER. *n. f.* Brushwood. This seems to be the meaning of this obsolete word.

Lop for thy fewel old *pollenger* grown,

That hinder the corn or the gralle to be mown. *Tusser.*

POLLER. *n. f.* [from *poll*.]

1. Robber; pillager; plunderer.

The *poller* and exactor of fees justifies the resemblance of the courts of justice to the bush, whereunto while the sheep flies for defence, he loses part of the fleece. *Bacon's Essays.*

2. He who votes or polls.

POLLIVIL. *n. f.* [poll and evil.]

Pollivil is a large swelling, inflammation or imposthume in the horse's poll or nape of the neck, just between the ears towards the mane. *Farrier's Dict.*

POLLOCK. *n. f.* A kind of fish.

The coast is plentifully stored with shellfish, sea-hedgehogs, scallops; and flat, as round, pilcherd, herring and *pollock*. *Carver's Survey of Cornwall.*

To POLLUTE. *v. a.* [polluo, Lat. *polluer*, Fr.]

1. To make unclean, in a religious sense; to defile.

Hot and peevish vows

Are *polluted* offerings, more abhor'd

Than spotted livers in the sacrifice. *Shakespeare.*

2. To taint with guilt.

She woos the gentle air,

To hide her guilty front with innocent snow,

And on her naked shame,

Pollute with sinful blame, *Milton.*

3. To corrupt by mixtures of ill.

Envy you my praise, and would destroy

With grief my pleasures, and *pollute* my joy? *Dryden.*

4. *Milton* uses this word in an uncommon construction.

Polluted from the end of his creation. *Milton.*

POLLUTEDNESS. *n. f.* [from *pollute*.] Defilement; the state of being polluted.

POLLUTER. *n. f.* [from *pollute*.] Defiler; corrupter.

Ev'n he, the king of men,

Fell at his threshold, and the spoil of Troy

The foul *polluters* of his bed enjoy. *Dryden's Ennis.*

POLLUTION. *n. f.* [pollutio, Fr. *pollutio*, Latin.]

1. The act of defiling.

The contrary to consecration is *pollution*, which happens in churches by homicide, and burying an excommunicated person in the church. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

2. The state of being defiled; defilement.

Their strife *pollution* brings

Upon the temple. *Milton's Par. Lost, l. xii.*

POLTRON. *n. f.* [police *truncato*, from the thumb cut off; it being once a practice of cowards to cut off their thumbs, that they might not be compelled to serve in war. *Saunders.*

Monage derives it from the Italian *poltra*, a bed; as cowards feign themselves sick a bed; others derive it from *poltra* or *poltra*, a young unbroken horse. A coward; a nidget; a scoundrel.

Patience is for *poltrons*.

They that are bruised with wood or fists,

And think one beating may for once

Suffice, are cowards and *poltrons*. *Hudibras, p. ii.*

For who but a *poltron* posses'd with fear,

Such haughty insolence can tamely bear. *Dryden.*

POLY. *n. f.* [poliam, Lat.] An herb.

POLY. [πολύ.] A prefix often found in the composition of words derived from the Greek, and intimating multitude: as, *polygon*, a figure of many angles; *polypus*, an animal with many feet.

POLYCONSTITICK. *adj.* [πολύ and ἀκείω.] Any thing that multiplies or magnifies sounds. *Diect.*

POLYANTHOS. *n. f.* [πολύ and ἄνθος.] A plant.

Great varieties of *polyanthos* are annually produced, and its flowers are so numerous on one stalk, and so beautifully striped, that they are not inferior to auriculas in beauty. *Miller.*

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The daily, primrose, violet darkly blue,
And *polyanthos* of unnumber'd dyes. *Thomson.*

POLYEDRICAL. *adj.* [from πολύεδρος; *polyedre*, Fr.] Having many sides.

POLYEDROUS. *adj.* [from πολύεδρος; *polyedre*, Fr.] Having many sides.

The protuberant particles may be spherical, elliptical, cylindrical, *polyedrical*, and some very irregular; and according to the nature of these, and the situation of the lucid body, the light must be variously effected. *Boyle.*

A tubercle of a pale brown spar, had the exterior surface covered with small *polyedrous* crystals, pellucid, with a cast of yellow. *Woodward.*

POLYGAMIST. *n. f.* [from *polygamy*.] One that holds the lawfulness of more wives than one at a time.

POLYGAMY. *n. f.* [polygamie, Fr. *πολυγαμία*.] Plurality of wives.

Polygamy is the having more wives than one at once. *Locke.*

They allow no *polygamy*: they have ordained, that none do intermarry or contract, until a month be past from their first interview. *Bacon.*

Christian religion, prohibiting *polygamy*, is more agreeable to the law of nature, that is, the law of God, than mahometism that allows it; for one man, his having many wives by law, signifies nothing, unless there were many women to one man in nature also. *Gravitt.*

POLYGLOT. *adj.* [πολύγλωττος; *polyglotte*, Fr.] Having many languages.

The *polyglot* or linguist is a learned man. *Howell.*

POLYGON. *n. f.* [polygone, Fr. *πολύς* and *γωνία*.] A figure of many angles.

He began with a single line; he joined two lines in an angle, and he advanced to triangles and squares, *polygons* and circles. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

POLYGONAL. *adj.* [from *polygon*.] Having many angles.

POLYGRAM. *n. f.* [πολύς and *γραμμή*.] A figure consisting of a great number of lines. *Diect.*

POLYGRAPHY. *n. f.* [πολύς and *γραφία*; *polygraphie*, Fr.] The art of writing in several unusual manners or cyphers; as also decyphering the same. *Diect.*

POLYLOGY.